



THOMAS G. NEWMAN, Editor.



Vol. XXIII. Aug. 24, 1887. No. 34.

Mellit is the name given to a dry scab on the heel of the forefoot of a horse, because it is usually cured by a mixture of honey and vinegar.

Sacrificed—that is what is done with every pound of white honey in sections which is sold for less than 20 cents. Honey sold the earliest will bring the least price! It will increase in value as the days grow shorter. Do not be in a hurry! Wait for the highest market price.

The Insurance on J. B. Mason & Son's building, the burning of which we mentioned on pages 499 and 509, was \$800. When the insurance was taken out, there was not nearly as much in it as there was when it burned, and the insurance was not increased.

The Winnebago County, Ills., Agricultural Society will hold its thirty-third annual Exposition on Sept. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, at Rockford, Ills. C. C. Jones, of Rockford, Ills., the Secretary, will cheerfully send a Premium List upon application.

Saint Joseph, Mo.—The Managers of the Inter-State Exposition at St. Joseph, Mo., have engaged the Editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL to award the premiums in the Apicultural Department, on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1887. He will also deliver two lectures on "Bees and Honey" on the afternoons of Wednesday and Thursday, in Apicultural Hall. It is to be hoped that the bee-keepers of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska will make a grand exhibit of bees, honey, and ap'arian supplies.

When Bees are Swarming it is the old colony leaving the hive and abandoning the stores to the younger members. The old queen goes with them, and they seek a new location, with nothing for a beginning except what honey they fill themselves with as they take their departure.—*Selected.*

Melissa Officinalis (or *Melissa Balm*, Bee-Balm, etc., as it is commonly called), has already been mentioned on pages 339, 475 and 506 of the BEE JOURNAL for the present year, as one of the best honey-producers in existence. Mr. A. C. Tyrrel, of Madison, Nebr., has sent to us a large stalk, and writes us as follows concerning it, on Aug. 15, 1887:

That you may better determine whether or not the statements I have heretofore made as to the value of "*Melissa*" as a honey-plant, are well founded, I send a plant which, in its natural state, measured 2 feet and 7 inches in height, 8 feet and 10 inches in circumference, and had up to date put forth 30,000 flowers, not counting the smaller laterals or buds, of which there are several thousands in various stages of development. If there is another honey-plant that can show a better record, I would like to know it.

My plants commenced to blossom July 10, and are still in bloom. Profiting by the drouth last season, I carefully saved and sowed most of the seed I raised, and transplanted all the volunteer plants I had, otherwise my bees would have starved, as my Alsike and white clover was killed by the drouth. There is an abundance of golden-rod and other wild flowers, but not a bee has visited them. Our bees are in splendid condition, plenty of honey in the brood-chambers, and some surplus—all to be placed to the credit of "*Melissa*." I believe "*Melissa*" will thrive in waste places as well if not better than sweet clover, for the seeds are sure to germinate, even under the most unfavorable circumstances, are very attractive to bees, and bloom profusely; thus far, never having failed to secrete nectar during the severest drouth known in the history of our State.

We find the plant to be just as it is described above by Mr. Tyrrel. It is probably the oldest recognized honey-plant in existence. It was known to the Ancient Greeks to possess a wonderful attraction to the bees, and hence they named it *Melissa*, or "the honey-producer." It is also called balm, balm-leaf, etc. It is credited with being a hardy-grower, is fragrant, and very productive, as is also shown by the above, where Mr. Tyrrel says that the plant sent us has already "put forth thirty thousand flowers, not counting the smaller laterals or buds, of which there are several thousands in various stages of development." It will thrive on either wet or dry soil, and will pay for cultivation for its honey alone.

An Agricultural Society has been organized in Winnebago County, Iowa, and Mr. Eugene Secor is its first President. The time for holding its first Fair will be determined in a few days. The Winnebago Summit says:

The organization of an agricultural society in this county is a long step in the right direction, and the officers and directors at the head of it is a guaranty that its affairs will be wisely and well managed.

The President being a prominent apiarist should give us a pattern in the line of a Bee and Honey Show. Mr. Secor will please take this hint and "work it out."

Abuse is Not Argument.—It does not require much intellect in order to be abusive. No sensible person will throw much mud when rocks are at hand. When an individual stoops to use epithets in a discussion, that is *prima facie* evidence that nothing better is available. "If you have no case, abuse the opposing attorney, is the motto of pettifoggers, the world over.

Extracted Honey.—The discussions concerning the adoption of a new name for "honey out of the comb" has been free and full; and all the arguments for a change of cognomen, as well as suggestions for a new name, have received due attention.

The matter will now be referred to the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention (as to a jury) this fall, for decision. Two questions will be asked:

1. Is it desirable to make a change in the name of honey, when it is removed from the combs?

2. If so, what shall be the name?

The decision of that Convention shall be final, so far as the present discussion is concerned. If desired by those who cannot attend the Convention, suggestions or arguments may be sent to the Secretary, to be presented at the proper time to the Convention.

This will dispose of the question for the time being—and now let the discussion cease. We need the space for other important matters, and as soon as those communications on hand, which relate to the naming of honey, have received attention, the whole matter will be laid over until the Convention meets.

Jealous Canadians.—On page 533, the Rev. W. F. Clarke has given a good reply to a jealous Canadian who took exception to our review on page 483.

The *Canadian Bee Journal*, on page 431, contains the following sentences:

On this side of the line, America always indicates the United States. If we speak of the continent we speak of North America. The editor of the *Canadian Bee Journal* may be "impulsive," but he is not troubled with bilious attacks, and we trust that the editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL may soon be over his. It may probably relieve Mr. Newman's mind somewhat to know that Mr. Jones never saw the item over which all this splutter is made, until after it appeared in the C. B. J., as there happen to be two editors in connection with the *Journal*.

Our article was intended as an apology for our Canadian cotemporary, and to smooth over the trouble, and we are sorry to notice the "mud throwing" in the above paragraph.

If Canadians do ALWAYS mean "North America" when they speak of "the Continent," it shows that they are in error, for "the Continent of America" includes Canada, the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Chili, Peru, and all the other countries of South America. It will be easier for our cotemporary to own up to using the word American in an erroneous sense, than to try to cover up the error.

The Fair at Creston, Iowa, will be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 1887. In the Apicultural Department the competition is confined to Union, Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Clarke, Adair and Madison counties. The premiums amount to \$46 on honey, bees, and ap'arian supplies. E. R. Fosmire is the Superintendent, and I. M. Foote, Assistant. "The colonies of bees on exhibition must be the progeny of one queen, and exhibited in such shape as to be readily seen on two sides. Purity of race, docility, size of bees, and numerical strength to be considered." Premium lists may be obtained of the Secretary, S. A. Brewster, Creston, Iowa.

QUERIES

With Replies thereto.

[It is quite useless to ask for answers to queries in this Department in less time than one month. They have to wait their turn, be put in type, and sent in about a dozen at a time to each of those who answer them; get them returned, and then find space for them in the JOURNAL. If you are in a "hurry" for replies, do not ask for them to be inserted here.—ED.]

Preparing Bees for Winter.

Query 459.—Last year I took off the honey in the cases in September, and some that was partly filled I left on, thinking that the honey-flow might last to fill them, and business hindered me from getting them off until the last of October. The bees had the diarrhea badly in the spring. They were put into the cellar about Dec. 1, and taken out about April 10. Those not disturbed in October were free from diarrhea. How will it do when the flow of honey is about over, to take off the supers and put on empty frames in the middle or at the outside of the brood-nest, so as to avoid opening the hive again until next spring, being sure they have plenty of stores to carry them through the winter?—J. M., Illinois.

It was not the October disturbance that caused the diarrhea.—DADANT & SON.

Your plan is perfectly feasible.—J. P. H. BROWN.

Try it and report through the BEE JOURNAL.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I prefer to prepare bees for winter as early as possible, and not disturb them again.—H. D. CUTTING.

I fail to see the object of placing empty frames in the centre or outside of the brood-nest at the close of the honey season.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

The plan will probably work well, only I would not put empty frames in the brood-nest.—C. C. MILLER.

Sometimes it seems that October disturbing of bees tends to cause winter diarrhea. Again, this same disturbance produces no such effect.—JAMES HEDDON.

Any plan will work well that will insure a sufficiency of sealed stores, say 30 pounds, in such a position that the bees can get at and appropriate it. I should judge that the plan indicated would not insure this, and should hesitate about adopting it for myself.—J. E. POND.

In this locality bees begin to cluster about the middle of October, after which time it is not best to disturb them by taking honey or opening the hives. The plan suggested, or any other that will avoid disturbing the bees will be good. But bees may be quietly packed out-of-doors or carried into the cellar at any time without doing them harm.—G. L. TINKER.

If your bees had a chance to fly out frequently, after you removed the combs, the last of October, I cannot see how that could have injured them; but the plan you suggest I think is a good one, anyway, if you can be sure that the bees have plenty of good sealed stores for winter. There is nothing like an abundance of good sealed stores when it comes to wintering, and getting bees ready for the early honey harvest in my locality. Plenty of winter stores

here beats all the wisest manipulations that can be brought to bear in my apiary.—G. W. DEMAREE.

I always aim to prepare my bees for winter as soon after the first September frost as possible. For winter I give five Langstroth, or six to eight Gallup frames at once, and remove all others as soon as the brood is all developed, usually in early October. Then put in a division-board and cover the bees warmly.—A. J. COOK.

The October disturbance may not have caused the trouble. Prepare the bees for winter in September (after the first frost), and then leave them undisturbed. Empty frames are undesirable anywhere in the brood-nest.—THE EDITOR.

Ants in the Honey-Room.

Query 460.—What is the best plan to keep little black ants out of a honey-room?—Mich.

Sprinkle in the openings and creases pulverized borax and sulphur.—J. P. H. BROWN.

Trap them with sweet, or destroy their nest.—A. J. COOK.

I know of no way of doing it except to line the room with tin.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

We do it by proper building, with close carpentering and good mason work, and keeping everything clean and tidy.—JAMES HEDDON.

Kill them by feeding a mixture of Fowler's solution of arsenic and honey, placed near the nest of the ants, but protected securely from the approach of the bees.—G. L. TINKER.

Use plenty of camphor-gum in small cloth bags, laid around where the ants go. Tansy (green) laid around the honey-house is a great help.—H. D. CUTTING.

Make the room so close that they cannot enter. Failing in this, keep the honey upon a platform, the supports of which rest in dishes containing kerosene oil.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

I do not know. As many remedies have been made known as there are for a common cold, still the ants come, again and again. Try kerosene and powdered borax, pouring it into their nests. By following them up their homes can easily be found, and there is the place to apply the treatment.—J. E. POND.

It will be a good plan, if any who have had successful experience in the matter will minutely describe their method of procedure. I have had some experience in the house, and I do not know whether the ants were driven out by persistent trapping and scalding, or whether they left of themselves.—C. C. MILLER.

I have been worried this hot summer to the limits of endurance with ants in my honey store-room. A mixture of air-slacked lime and fine salt strewed around next to the walls of the room has helped matters decidedly in my case. Dr. Ed. Drane, of Eminence, Ky., I believe it was, gave me this remedy. I believe this

remedy would be entirely effective if it was applied before the room was taken possession of by the pests. But when they once get possession of the place, it is no little matter to get rid of them entirely.—G. W. DEMAREE.

Sprinkle powdered borax about the hills, and scald the mounds with boiling water.—THE EDITOR.

Holy Land Bees and Italians.

Query 461.—How do the Holy Land bees compare with the Italians, in the production of comb honey?—Ohio.

They are no better than Italians.—J. P. H. BROWN.

They are not equal to the Italians.—G. L. TINKER.

I have not had them long enough in their purity to say which is best.—H. D. CUTTING.

They compare poorly in this locality. Some like them, but with me they are the poorest bees I have ever tried.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Italians are superior, especially so in the matter of capping the honey, and the German bees beat them all in this respect.—W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

I have Syrian bees and like them very much. They were a little cross the first year, but not since. I think them equal to Italians in all respects, and superior in some.—A. J. COOK.

From observation I should say that they compare very unfavorably. I have seen to it that none of the later-day varieties of bees have been brought into this vicinity. I believe that all the varieties brought in since the Italians, have been detrimental to American bee-keeping.—J. HEDDON.

I have never tested them, and know nothing of them save from reports. From such reports I have arrived at the conclusion that they are better bees for queen-breeders, than for those who are engaged in gathering surplus honey.—J. E. POND.

I am not sure that I ever had the Palestine bees in their purity. Such as I have tried are no improvement on the Italians. All the yellow varieties of bees are peculiarly adapted to storing honey to be taken from the comb with the extractor; not because the dark varieties of bees have superior traits as comb-honey producers, but because honey in the virgin comb can only be profitably produced in an extra good season, or an extra good location, and any sort of bees can do well under such circumstances. Both the Palestines and Cyprian bees cap their honey too thin, to make it white and showy. According to my experience the Italians finish their honey the finest of all bees.—G. W. DEMAREE.

Some seven years ago we purchased a ten-dollar imported Holy Land queen, put her into a choice colony of Italians in the Bee Journal Apiary, and watched the results very closely. We were obliged to admit that there was no improvement over the Italians in her progeny, and in a few months we superseded her. We much prefer the Italians.—THE EDITOR.

Correspondence.

This mark \odot indicates that the apiarist is located near the center of the state named; δ north of the center; φ south; \odot east; \odot west; and this δ northeast; \odot northwest; \odot southeast; and φ southwest of the center of the State mentioned.

For the American Bee Journal.

Reply to Jealous Canadians.

W. A. CLARKE.

A correspondent at Ridgeway, Ont., writes me as follows:

Undoubtedly you have read the editorial on page 483 of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, about D. A. Jones, Canada, etc. It certainly calls for a reply from some Canadian, and no one could do it nicer or better than yourself. I wish you would reply to it. About four years ago I took a trip through the Western States, and was astonished to learn of the positive ignorance of the Western people in regard to Canada. Just wake them up to the fact that the Dominion of Canada, instead of being a small part of the Continent, is larger than the whole of the United States, with Alaska thrown in.

Many controversies and misunderstandings originate in want of precision as to the meaning of terms. This, along with a little national "touchiness," is what ails my correspondent. The AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL was referring to "the whole continent of America." When I went to school we were taught that there were four continents, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The continent of America includes both North and South America, and of it, the United States as well as Canada is only, comparatively speaking, "a small portion."

It is quite true that Canada is larger than the United States with Alaska thrown in, a fact of which I dare say, many of our American cousins are not aware. It is as well they should know it, for a variety of reasons. Instead of giving the figures that prove this, I will simply quote from Hon. Ben. Butterworth's recent letter to his fellow-representatives in Congress, concerning commercial union with this country, who says: "Canada has territory larger in extent than the United States"—the italics are his. I go warmly with the Honorable gentleman for the measure he is so earnestly advocating at the present time, and hope that the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and all bee-keepers throughout "the whole continent" will do the same. It is monstrous that there should be the existing trade restrictions between two peoples whose interests are so essentially one, and that we cannot have a free interchange of commodities. I cannot send for any little apiarian fixture from the United States without its cost being doubled by duty and customs fees.

But let us have done with all petty inter-national jealousies. "Before all nations is humanity." The broad-minded man is cosmopolitan in

thought and feeling, regarding himself as a citizen of the world. I do not suppose that Mr. Ivar S. Young meant any invidious exclusion of Canada when he spoke of "the Americans" as "the first and greatest bee-keepers in the world." Europeans are accustomed to apply the term "America" to Canada as well as the United States. When I was in England, many of my fellow-countrymen said to me, "You are from America," or asked, "When are you going back to America?"

The ignorance of Western people about Canada is overmatched by that of English people. When I told them that we had single lakes in Canada big enough to submerge England, they received the statement with mingled incredulity and disdain. They have no idea of the vastness of this continent. On the vessel in which I returned, there was a Captain Collision who had military business at Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto. He told me that a friend of his handed him a letter on the eve of his departure, asking him to drop it in Tennessee, as he went along. Great was his surprise to be told that the Captain wasn't going within 1,000 miles of Tennessee. Why, even the London Times the other day—the leading journal of Europe—committed a couple of palpable blunders. It spoke of the scene of the recent railway catastrophe as being St. Thomas, Manitoba; and the Hamilton (Ont.). Times received a pamphlet from its London namesake, addressed "Editor Hamilton Times, Hamilton, Ont., New York, U. S. A." Guelph, Ont.

[The fact that Mr. Ivar S. Young wrote the same words to the bee-papers of Canada as he did to those of the United States, shows that he intentionally addressed the bee-keepers of both "Canada" and the "United States," as "the Americans,"—and correctly so, too.

Mr. Wm. F. Clarke's correspondent evidently thinks that the great continents of the world are Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, America, and Canada! Mr. Clarke's reply to this idea, as a Canadian, is just, manly, and broad, and we congratulate Canadians upon having at least one who takes a cosmopolitan view of matters and things. As before stated, we have no desire to restrict the language of Mr. Ivar S. Young—it belongs alike to the bee-keepers of Canada as well as to the rest of America.

We also fully concur in the remarks of Mr. Clarke about a "commercial union" between the "two peoples, whose interests are so essentially one," and hope to see the day when there will be "a free interchange of commodities" between Canada and the United States. The fact is, we

should like to have the whole of North America happily united as one Nation, and under one government! and we cherish the thought that we may yet live to see it accomplished.—Ed.]

For the American Bee Journal.

Sowing Sweet Clover for Honey.

C. H. DIBBERN.

As suggested by Dr. Miller on page 501, I will "arise and explain" how I sow sweet clover. Some five years ago I was so impressed with the value of this plant for bee-forage, that I determined to put in a patch of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. I then drilled it, with a garden drill, in rows about 4 feet apart, and one inch in the row. I secured a good stand, and the next year it was immense, some of the plants measuring 14 feet high, and of course covered the ground completely.

I found it considerable work, however, to keep the weeds down the first year, and wishing to sow about an acre more the following year, I sowed it with oats, broad-cast; but I got the oats too thick, and after it was cut, I found that I had but a few scattered plants of the melilot surviving. The next year it was pretty thin, but since then it has been good, and has taken entire possession of the land.

Last spring, wishing to put in three acres more, I decided to sow with oats, and sow the oats quite thin, and the sweet clover thick, as early as possible. I succeeded nicely, and in June I cut four tons of oats hay, cutting it rather high, so as not to damage the sweet clover. This has paid me well for work and use of land. I now have a splendid stand of melilot. Although the ground is hard, and as dry as a bone, the clover has made a nice growth since cutting the oats, and I have no fears of its withstanding the drouth. The only trouble I have had is to secure a good stand the season succeeding the first bloom. In the case of my first patch, I sowed both fall and the next spring after sowing, and yet the second season was almost a failure.

As to the value of this plant, the experience of the present (horrid) summer, makes me think better of it than ever. During the early part of July, as about everything else had dried up and disappeared, the sweet clover was in full glory. It was wonderful to see the bees on it—sometimes two and three on a single cluster. The severely dry weather did not seem to affect it in the least, and it has produced an abundance of seed.

Of course in a season like this it could not be expected that two or three hundred colonies would store any surplus honey from $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, but I am convinced that it has been a great help to keep them from starving. Next year I hope to be able to report tangible results as to increase of surplus honey from sweet clover.

Milan, Ills.

For the American Bee Journal.

Securing the Necessary Rainfall.

HENRY L. PENFIELD.

The article of Thos. E. Hill, on "Drouths and Cyclones," on page 487, has greatly interested me. Bee-keeping and farming are intimately associated with us; the rainfall is an indispensable necessity, and, as we used to say when working out problems at school, the "unknown quantity" that we are trying to get. The editor invites the readers by a "postscript," to work out this problem of the cause of drouths and cyclones.

In this vicinity we are more interested in the cause of drouths, not having had a good crop year since 1879, nor a good honey year since 1883, from the reason of need of rain at seasonable times. We know how indispensable that factor is to the industries of farming and bee-keeping, and that they are consequently lotteries as now run, that are about to ruin us or any country where it is so uncertain as here.

Would it not be well for us mortals to have this part of the "whole business" under our control. I maintain that our Creator has nothing to do with the details of this important factor to success in the industries mentioned, but that it is left to us to control it if we would, like any other part of our labor. It is so in Dakota, where irrigation makes it as certain as any other employment.

Now the question is, what is the best way for the different locations to arrive at this much-desired result. I do not believe that a fervent prayer will come at it generally, for that has been tried so many times and failed, that we are "left" to some other alternative hereabouts.

It may be that there are local causes that make the drouth worse in some places than in others, and I think we are free to investigate this matter. We have noticed that the sun draws water from small or large bodies of water by evaporation, and that soon after the clouds gather and follow the water courses, and sometimes the wind carries them over and beyond these influences to be operated on by other influences. We know how apt it is to rain about the 4th of July in large cities, and in the vicinity of battle-fields during or shortly after an action. I believe, as Mr. Hill says in his article alluded to, that where the water was dammed up in ponds and lakes, more generally in farming countries, then when the sun was seen to have the effect of drawing water and collecting it in clouds, and at a near time to set off some explosive high in the air, that places accustomed to having the rains go around would be benefited by a good shower of rain.

We know that at certain phases of the moon we are more apt to get rain when the indications are favorable as before stated. I notice that a weather prophet predicts rain at a certain time in the vicinity of Quincy, Ills.,

near where there is a large area of bottom land in Missouri for evaporation, and his predictions are very often verified for his location.

When by investigation the causes of drouths in some places can be ascertained, the remedy may be sure to follow.

Hunnewell, 6 Mo.

Condensed from Agricultural Review.

Bees, Bee-Hives, Honey and Money.

REV. O. CLUTE.

Bee-keeping is still in its infancy. But it is an "infant" of vigorous health and remarkable promise. Modern inventions and discoveries have put it on profitable basis, and it has already drawn into its ranks clear-headed men and women who see the possibilities it offers to industry and skill.

In our practical pursuits we work to get money. In bee-keeping we get the money by selling our honey; we get the honey by the labors of the bees; we can keep the bees only as we have some suitable hive. I will here consider these points in reverse order.

HIVES.—Time was when the bee-keeper put his bees into a box, open at the lower end, and stood them in a corner of the garden to live or die, as luck might determine. If the colony became queenless and so soon died out; if the bee-moth soon filled it with its loathsome larvæ and so destroyed it; if it became so filled with honey that the queen had no cells in which to lay her eggs, and hence no young bees being reared, the colony soon dwindled away, it was all charged to "bad luck." Now all this has been changed. Intelligent bee-keepers to-day regard the man who talks about "luck" in bee-keeping, with about the same feelings as those with which we regard the superstition and ignorance of the man who gives any attention to the baseless guesses as to the weather, with which our wild weather-prophets amuse a too indulgent public.

But the intelligent bee-keeper to-day does not keep his bees in box-hives; he uses the movable-frame hive, in which the bees are led to build their combs; the frames are movable, and can be lifted from the hives.

BEES.—Having hives for the bees, the next thing is to get bees for the hives. To do this in the best manner we must understand something of the natural history of the bee. In every perfect colony of bees there are one queen, a small number of drones, and from 5,000 to 40,000 workers. The queen is the only perfect female in the hive. She lays all the eggs from which young bees are reared. In laying these eggs she is somewhat prolific, as she will lay from 2,000 to 3,000 a day when the weather is warm and honey is coming in. The physiologist who will successfully breed the laying qualities of the queen-bee into the Brahma hen, will give himself fame and fortune. The only office of

the queen-bee is to lay eggs. She gathers no honey; she takes no care of the eggs after they are laid; she pays no attention to the young brood. Nature has decreed that in the division of labor in the hive, she shall attend strictly to the business of laying.

The drones are male bees. Their office as males is their only office. They do no work of any kind, not even collecting the honey on which they live.

The great body of bees in the hives are workers. They are undeveloped females, that is, females in which the reproducing organs have never fully developed. These workers do all the work of the hive, gather the honey, make the wax, build the comb, hover the eggs and young brood, nurse the brood, clean up the hive, and defend it from the attacks of robber bees. The queen is long and slender in shape—somewhat like a wasp. The drones are shorter and more robust. The workers are smaller than the drones, and not so chunked in shape.

Of races of bees there are now two that are very widely diffused in America—the old black, or German bee, and the Italian bee. Of these two there is no doubt but the Italian is, on the whole, much the superior. It is more hardy, more prolific, more industrious, and more docile. To prefer the black bee to the Italian, is much as it would be for one who is breeding cattle to prefer the common scrubs to the beautiful Short-Horns, Herefords, Jerseys or Ayrshires. No bee-keeper can afford to keep the blacks. To change from the blacks to the Italians is a very easy thing. To do this it is necessary, in the first place, to introduce a pure Italian queen.... During the working season the worker-bees live only about six weeks; the old ones are constantly dying off, their places being taken by the young bees that are reared in the hive. Hence in a few weeks the black bees in this hive, to which you have introduced an Italian queen, will all be dead, and their places supplied by young Italians, the product of her eggs.

The natural way for bees to increase is by swarming. In old times it was often thought that the more bees swarmed the more profitable they were. But now-a-days swarming is regarded by many bee-keepers with great disfavor. If it were possible to prevent swarming entirely, they would do so. They approximate as closely to no swarming as possible.

HONEY.—I come now to speak of honey which is, of course, the great end in keeping bees. No article is more attractive on the table than the delicate white comb with the luscious honey gleaming through, more lovely in color than the mysterious amber from the storm-tossed Baltic shores, more delicate in fragrance and flavor than the fabled nectar and ambrosia of the Olympian gods of old. Extracted honey is delicious and beautiful. The demand for it will rapidly increase, but it can never take the place of the comb honey. The demand for this will never be less than

it is to-day. To produce it in perfection is a high art, to attain which many bee-keepers will always strive.

A very large part of the honey crop is now taken in the form of extracted honey. Comb honey is good and beautiful, but it has the disadvantage of the wax, which is indigestible, and which nobody cares to eat. In the extracted honey we have no wax, it is honey in its purest form. Many people associate extracted honey with strained honey; they suppose that all honey out of the comb is strained honey, but this is great injustice to extracted honey. In getting strained honey, all the combs from a hive, combs containing capped brood, and growing larvæ and pollen, and honey, are mixed up together, and then the liquid squeezed out. In this way there is obtained some honey, but there is also obtained the juice of the growing larvæ of the young bees and of the pollen, so that the honey has a rank flavor, a dark color, and associations by no means appetizing. But "extracted" honey is as different from this strained honey as it is possible to be. In getting extracted honey we get no pollen, no juices of bees or larvæ. We get simply the pure honey, without any admixture whatever. He, who on a cold winter morning, has never had pure, candied, white clover honey to spread on his hot cakes, has lived in vain! Life has lacked for him one of its chiefest charms!

MONEY.—He who can market his honey most successfully will have a great advantage over the one who fails in this. Comb honey, if put up in attractive packages, always commands a market, though the prices may not come up to the producer's ideas. It is wise to develop and supply the home market. Go to all the grocers in all the towns, villages and cities near you, and arrange with them to keep your honey on sale. In this way a large amount can be disposed of at fair rates. If your honey is very superior, and is carefully packed in good crates, it can be sent long distances on the railroads, and so reach the markets in the large cities.

By attending to the matter, a large home demand can be created for extracted honey. Talk it up in all places, public meetings and elsewhere; write about it in your local papers; let all know just how good and cheap it is. Have it nicely put up in glass jars or tin pails and offered for sale everywhere. Tin pails holding from one pound to twenty-five pounds are very excellent for retailing extracted honey, and are now coming rapidly into use. It is wise to have printed labels pasted on every package, telling that the contents are pure honey, stating briefly how it is taken, its quality, that in cold weather it will candy or crystallize, and that by standing the vessel containing it on the stove in another vessel containing water, and heating to about 180°, it can again be reduced to a liquid without injuring it.

The kegs and barrels in which the extracted honey was stored are the

best package in which to ship it to the large markets at home and abroad. They are convenient to handle, and can be shipped across the continent or across the seas with no trouble. In this shape it has already become a staple in the great commercial centres, and the commercial bulletins in all the large cities now quote honey as regularly as they quote meats and wool. The foreign demand for American extracted honey is large and increasing. As the honey product increases with the rapid development to which this industry is destined, the foreign market will absorb no inconsiderable part of our annual crop.

Let nobody suppose that bee-keeping on a large scale is a pleasant pastime, which lazy and incompetent people can take up and pursue with success. For the lazy and the incompetent there is no place anywhere. It were as well for them to die at once. But any man or woman, who will learn the business, who will begin wisely, who will choose a good location, who will stick to it even if now and then there comes a year of disaster, can find in bee-keeping a healthful and independent pursuit that will give a good living.

Iowa City, Ia. Iowa.

Apiculturist.

Bee-Keeping as an Exclusive Business.

L. C. ROOT.

Every bee-keeper of experience will answer this question for himself, but there are those who contemplate entering into bee-keeping who will hesitate. I have followed bee-keeping as an exclusive business for 15 years, and I have had an opportunity to observe very closely its many phases.

In earlier days, when the sources from which our honey came were more certain, when prices for honey ranged higher, and, above all, when comparatively few were engaged in the business, and there was a demand for even more honey than was produced, one was more fully warranted in making bee-keeping an exclusive business.

I have watched the changes in our pursuit with more than an ordinary degree of interest, as the results of the changes were to determine my own action in my plans for the future. The results of my experience lead me to the conclusion that it is far more safe to unite bee-keeping with some other business. There are many kinds of business which may be conducted in connection with bee-keeping with pleasure and profit. Among these are poultry-raising, stock-growing, small-fruit gardening, etc.

If farming were conducted in a better way than it usually is, and a few colonies of bees kept in connection with it, the two pursuits would be found to harmonize. As a rule, farmers attempt to work far too much land, and the consequence is a low grade of farming. Their crops, both of grain and fruit are inferior, and if there is a bee-keeper near them, they

are apt to try and make themselves believe that the bees are the cause of their poor crops. If, instead of attempting to conduct a farm of 200 acres, they would put the same amount of work on 50 acres, and keep 50 colonies of bees, sowing Alsike clover, buckwheat, etc., their investment would be much less, and I think the results more satisfactory.

The present feeling with so many, that the interests of the farmer and bee-keepers are antagonistic, is very much to be regretted, for the facts, when investigated, will prove decidedly the reverse. From very close observation, I feel warranted in saying that the honey-bee is as truly a necessity in the propagation of field and garden crops, as are the rain, sunshine and soil. These facts will surely be proven by the harmony which will be produced in the desirable practice of uniting the branches of business referred to, and conducting them in such a manner as to bring about the harmony which the God of nature has established.

Stamford, Conn.

For the American Bee Journal.

Bee-Territory for Bee-Keepers.

OLIVER FOSTER.

Were it not for one point of practical importance, I should consider this question unworthy of further discussion. It seems also that Mr. Clarke has failed to "catch on" to the main idea of my article on page 406, which he answers on page 485.

He says that I killed my little "scheme," as he calls it, "dead at the start and at the finish," by doubting that it was practicable. He then proceeds to fight it as though it were something alive and dangerous; whereas I meant it not as a "scheme" or plan to be worked out, but rather as an illustration, though faulty as I admit, showing that a bee-keeper may desire a just control of the honey resources of his locality upon other and more important grounds than that he was the prior occupant; but it seems "impracticable" for Mr. Clarke to allow this point.

Near the close of his article he says: "There is an element of justice and of right in a prior occupant having a pre-emptive claim conceded to him.... Overcrowding is doubtless an evil, but I see no practicable legal check to it. There are two potent checks always in operation—respect for the rights of others, and self-interest, etc."

From what I have quoted, I find that we agree, viz: 1. That some kind of protection to avoid "overcrowding" would be just and desirable. 2. That such protection by law is probably impracticable. 3. That "respect for the rights of others and self-interest" are the best checks to the difficulty now available. 4. That these checks sometimes fail to operate. They may fail to operate because of a mistaken notion of self-interest, because the respect for the

rights of others is lacking or is overbalanced by the stronger self-interest, or because the term "rights" is not properly interpreted.

Though these moral checks may be effective in preventing overstocking, still injustice may be involved in the result. Here is the practical point. Where a locality is overstocked, who has a moral right to occupy the field and who has not?

I venture the assertion that no locality will accommodate to advantage more than one honey producer, if he makes that a specialty, and I will venture a guess that within two or three miles of nearly every skillful and successful bee-keeper, there could be found one or more farmers or others who owned a few "bee-gums" when the specialist began. The enterprise and success of the specialist has influenced others to "dabble in bees," and the result is overstocking. Should the specialist now retire from the field in favor of the prior occupant? Would Mr. Clarke's "respect for the rights of others" lead him to do so?

The fact that a man was first on the ground, is a point in his favor; but the fact that another has natural and acquired qualifications to best utilize the honey resources of his locality, is, in my judgment, a stronger one in his favor. Of course any one has a moral right to keep bees in localities that are not fully stocked, but as soon as the number of bees increases beyond a certain limit, the locality is overstocked, and some one must fail. Then he who is lacking in qualifications will consult his own self-interest by respecting the moral rights of those best fitted.

About 18 miles from here a friend of mine keeps a few bees and sells standard supplies. He says that a few years ago he sold a thousand dollars worth of supplies a year to the farmers and others in his immediate neighborhood, and that now scarcely any of them have any bees. A well-managed monopoly of the bee-business would have saved these farmers hundreds of dollars. A general knowledge of the business on their part would have accomplished the same result. Whether the desired protection be by law or by the power of moral sentiment, the result should be the same—"the survival of the fittest." The utilization of our honey resources should be intrusted to those who are best qualified to accomplish it, with little or no regard to priority.

Mt. Vernon, Co. Iowa.

Farm, Stock and Home.

Points of Excellence in Bees.

WM. HOYT.

Having for several years given considerable thought to the matter of improving our bees, I will briefly outline a method that, if carried out by a majority of the bee-keepers, would undoubtedly in a few years give good results.

The first and principal object in the keeping of bees is the production of

honey, but there are several minor points that must be taken into consideration therewith. I will here introduce a scale of points, imperfect, I am well aware, but it will serve to illustrate my meaning:

To every colony of bees that gather sufficient stores for winter, I would allow one point; then for every 15 pounds of extracted honey, one more point.

The next desirable quality to be taken into consideration is hardiness and ability to stand our unfavorable winter and spring weather. Colonies that winter perfectly, and come through the spring without dwindling, should be allowed three points.

Next should come character and disposition. If a colony can be handled during a flow of honey without stinging, spread out evenly upon the combs and remain quiet while being examined; good to repel robbers and moths, and not meddlesome (that is, not attempting to rob weak colonies or putting out their keeper's eyes, when molested) I would allow three points.

Thus a colony having perfect disposition, wintering perfectly, and getting 45 pounds of surplus honey, or 90 pounds of extracted honey, and having sufficient stores to winter, would score ten points.

I think that excessive natural swarming should be discouraged, consequently I would not allow any credit for swarms cast, but would commence a new account with the new colony. The bee-keeper, having kept a record with each colony for one year, is then ready to select say about 4 colonies that have, during the previous season, scored the highest number of points from every 10 colonies, from which to rear queens and drones; two of the selected colonies to be used for the rearing of drones, and the remaining two being used for rearing queens. No drones should be allowed to issue from the other colonies selected for that purpose.

For the American Bee Journal.

Some Experiences of the Season.

J. D. MANDEVILLE, M.D.

I have kept bees for the last 11 years, and every year brings with it some new experience and knowledge, as well as increase and surplus. This year my profits will consist, in part, of experience. I began with 2 colonies in 1876, and have increased them to about 110 or 120 colonies, but I now have 46 colonies, having lost 51 colonies with diarrhea in the spring of 1877 from out-door wintering, I think, which reduced my number to 3 colonies; since then I have wintered my bees in the cellar, with little or no loss, and last winter I wintered 42 colonies without any loss.

This being a remarkably dry season, I fear that the profits to apiarists will be largely in experience, with but small surplus and little or no increase. I am a little more fortunate, however, than some others who, de-

siring to increase their number of colonies by natural swarming, kept off the supers until the white clover honey-flow was over, and did not get any honey, nor much increase. But I did not desire any increase, so I put on my supers early, and I think I have 500 or 1,000 pounds of surplus honey in one-pound sections, if I take it before they carry it below into the brood-chamber. I think that the coming fall and winter will furnish a bitter experience to the bee-keepers in this locality, for if the bees are not fed, they will perish for want of winter stores, as some colonies have already left their hives for want of food to sustain them.

The high mercury has given me some new and profitable experience, as it has been most of the time, for the last month, from 95° Fahr. to 100°, and several days it has risen to 102°, 103°, 104°, and one day 106°; but on Sunday, July 17, it stood for six or seven hours at 104° in the shade, and I think not less than 130° in the sun, although I did not try the thermometer in the sun on that day, but other days, when it was 102° in the shade, it has been 127° in the sun, and my thermometer varies but little with the one kept at the State Agricultural College at Urbana, ten miles northwest of here, which has been 103½° Fahr.

I have never used shade-boards, but have always followed Mr. Doolittle's plan, viz: kept my hives painted white, and I have never had any trouble with honey and comb melting down; but on the day mentioned it was too hot for one of my best colonies that gave me 144 pounds of surplus comb honey last year, and this year it had filled two supers of 36 pounds each, and I had raised them up and put on the third super, when, to my surprise, the honey in the two supers melted and the comb fell down, killing and drowning about one-third of the bees, and ran out at the entrance. The high temperature killed all of the brood, and I assure you that I had a sweet mess of melted comb, honey, bees and brood.

The colony was immediately attacked *en masse* with robbers, which was equal to the multiplying the former complication by ten thousand. It was Sunday afternoon, as is usually the case when bees get out of joint, as we sometimes say; and if a cow ever does kick over the milk-pail, she is sure to do it when you are trying to do a nice job of milking, with your Sunday pantaloons on; so this calamity occurred on Sunday afternoon. I saw at once that the "critter was in the well," and the "good book" says that if it falls in on Sunday, that you may help it out, but I did not; I let the colony alone until nightfall, when I carried it to the bee-cellar, and removed the supers and dead bees and brood; I found the queen all right. I transferred the frames and bees to another hive, put them on another stand in a secluded spot, and all are doing nicely, and still have plenty of honey for winter.

Perhaps some one may say, "I told you so; why did you not use shade-

boards." And so I would, if I lived in a latitude where the mercury was in the habit of running wild, but I do not think I will in my present location, for they are very much in the way, besides adding a great deal to the labor of the apiary; and if I had lost the entire colony, its value would not have equaled the expense of shade-boards for 11 years.

Philo, O. Ills.

For the American Bee Journal.

My Experience with Sweet Clover.

WILLIAM STOLLEY.

In answer to the request of Dr. C. C. Miller, on page 501, respecting sweet clover, I will say that I am one of those who has acted upon the advice frequently given by the editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, to have some sweet clover, not only along public roads and along railroads in the vicinity of my apiary, but I also have cropped as much as 12 to 13 acres of good land on my farm for three years, after being sown with the seed of this excellent forage plant. I have fully reported upon the result of my experiment in 1886, in the BEE JOURNAL, on pages 746 and 748.

This year, being an "off" year for so many bee-keepers, I will at this early day report once more the result of my experiment this season, and thus at the same time comply with the Doctor's request. Up till Aug. 1, I had taken 732 pounds of capped honey, leaving nearly all the uncapped in the supers. I think that I estimate low when I say that another 500 pounds are capped now and ready for the extractor.

If grown for a crop, mellilot may be sown as well in the autumn as in early spring, and the land should be treated the same as if sown to oats or wheat. In the latter part of June it is ready for the mower, and will yield a heavy crop of most excellent fodder for cattle. I leave it not longer in the field than is absolutely necessary, and salt it quite liberally when stacking it. Cattle prefer it to any other food, if thus prepared and fed, after they get used to it.

I do not crop it a second time the first season, although I think it could be done without injury to the plants; but in the fall, when other pastures are failing, the sweet clover pasture is at its best, and will hold out late in the season—yet into winter. If an early honey crop is desired, it should have its own way the following spring, but a heavy crop of fodder may be taken from mellilot clover field about June 15 the second year, and it will grow up and produce a crop of nectar-yielding bloom for the bees, which will last well into winter.

On an average, I have secured now about 60 pounds of capped honey per colony, spring count, in the supers, and there is more than required for wintering the bees on, left in the brood-chambers. From 20 colonies in the spring, I was compelled to increase to 34 colonies, all of which are

ready for the fall crop now. Rearing my queens in advance from selected colonies, I strengthen the nuclei, as old colonies require weakening, to prevent swarming, by taking frames with hatching brood and adhering bees. For this happy state of affairs I have to thank the mellilot clover, in conjunction with alfalfa.

Our natural honey crop begins about Aug. 15, and may be a good one this year, since all my bees are in the very best condition to gather in the nectar, if Nature should produce it.

In concluding, I will add that the mellilot, when nearly through blooming, should be plowed under well. This requires a good sulky plow and a strong team. The harrow should "follow" the plow, and not be dragged in an opposite direction, so as to avoid the uncovering of the heavy and bushy stalks put under ground. It then will soon decay. It is best to defer the harrowing until the following spring, and when the seed has well grown.

This harrowing in the spring will thin out the thickly set plants sufficiently to make a proper stand, "if done judiciously;" and in June the field is again ready for yielding a heavy crop of fodder. This summer, in June, I plowed under 6 acres of mellilot when about 2 feet high, and after taking a crop of millet this fall from the land, I will see what the effect of this treatment of the land will be, when sown to spring wheat next spring.

The roots of the mellilot penetrate deep into the subsoil, and by decaying, opens up channels for moisture and mineral salts to rise to the surface, which otherwise would be held, and would not be available for plant growth.

Grand Island, Neb., Aug. 14, 1887.

For the American Bee Journal.

Legislation for Bee-Keepers.

J. O. SHEARMAN.

What does all of the talk about bee-legislation amount to? No one has come to any conclusion as to what is best to be done. Mr. Clarke, on page 485, has, in his usual fluent manner, shoved Mr. Foster to one side, and good-naturedly sits down on the spot vacated. Mr. Foster did, at least, "break the ice," and propose something to be done, even allowing its possible impracticability. Did Mr. C. get any further? or as far toward a solution of the problem?

Now I believe if each bee-keeper would state his views in a positive, instead of a negative way, as to what conditions would be best to try to bring about to regulate the bee-keeping industry, then compare notes at the joint meeting in Chicago next November, some good might be done by coming to an understanding as to the rights of bee-keepers and others, comparatively. It would be better for some legislation upon the subject to be proposed by the bee-keepers themselves, rather than by outsiders,

as they evidently understand the merits and demerits of the case better.

Now, as a case in point, note the bill before our (Michigan) legislature last term. I know the party who presented that "bill," also the situation as to what started him on the war-path. He went to see our supervisor, and tied his horse (as usual) near the front gate; the door-yard between the gate and house being occupied by a few colonies of bees (a dozen, may be), made it uncomfortable for the horse, and put both gentlemen to some trouble to get it away without a serious accident. Now both of them are intelligent and fair-minded men in general, but not posted in bee-matters; consequently that "bill."

My idea in regard to legislation would be something nearly as follows:

1. No one shall keep any hives of bees within 4 rods of a public highway, without a close fence at least 8 feet high between the hives and the highway.
2. No one shall keep any hives of bees within 4 rods of any place where horses are obliged to be worked in warm weather (or summer time) without an 8-foot fence, or its equivalent between, etc.; also the same stipulation as to proximity of school-yards, etc.
3. Any one keeping bees near a public highway, or near where horses must pass, shall keep a plain notice posted in a prominent place saying, "Tie no horse near this place, for fear of injury by bees."
4. Any professional bee-keeper who keeps improved strains or breeds of bees, and rears queens to sell, or pure queens of improved breed for the purpose of improving his stock, shall be entitled to protection in the following manner: If any one shall bring native or grade bees and let them stand within two miles of the beeyard of the first comer, the first-named bee-keeper may notify him (the new comer) to remove his native or grade bees beyond the two-mile limit, and give a 30 days notice to that effect, in writing, and then if the new arrival shall continue to keep his bees within the two miles, the first bee-keeper may collect \$7 per day as damages, and prosecute the second bee-keeper for a misdemeanor, and subject him to fine or imprisonment, as the court shall direct, etc.

5. Nothing in the previous clause shall hinder the second bee-keeper from purchasing pure queens, and requeening his colonies, if of the same breed as the first-arrived bee-keeper.

6. Bees and bee-keepers' properties shall be held as property, and be liable to assessment in proportion to the valuation of other property with this exception, that no bees under 6 months of age shall be assessed. (N. B.—That leaves it to assess the queen and hive).

I do not see how any one could be legally prohibited from keeping bees or anything else on his own premises, except upon the grounds of being a nuisance or a hindrance to public improvement in some way, no matter

whether they are the first or last on the ground.

The first three clauses would be restrictions upon specialists, and would naturally incline the majority of any legislature to favor such enactment. The last would gravitate toward doing away with the one-horse, puttering bee-owner, as well as to discourage others from going in.

Now let us hear from others, and improve upon this, or bring forward something more practicable.

New Richmond, 9 Mich.

Nebraska Farmer.

Bee-Keeping in Nebraska.

G. E. T.

The past three years, during which time I have kept bees, have been considered poor seasons for honey; judging by what mine have done, I conclude that Nebraska must be one of the best places in the world for bees. One reason is, perhaps, because of our early spring flowers, with a succession of bloom of various kinds, sufficient at all times for them to live upon and rear their brood, until the honey harvest, which comes from what is commonly called heart's-ease. They also work upon Spanish-needles, sunflowers, etc. If we had clover, it would enable them to do still better. Another is, that our dry atmosphere is favorable for wintering; it has been said that more bees die from dampness than from cold.

Bee-keeping is very interesting and particularly desirable for those who wish to be out-of-doors for the benefit of their health. There is much to learn, but half an hour's instruction will enable any one to proceed with the business by reading bee-books for help, as it is needed. As one can work much more at ease, if there is no fear that the bees will sting, I think it better to wear a bee-hat and gloves. Prepared in this way, there is no need to feel nervous.

To increase colonies by division is simply to take a part of the frames covered with bees from one hive, and place in another a little distance away. Cyprians and Italians will remain quietly upon the comb, when taken from the hive, and it is easy to find the queen, which, in dividing, I think it better to do. Take her to the new hive with the frames of brood that are nearly ready to hatch, leaving the larvæ and eggs for the old colony, as they will do better in rearing a queen. This can be done in 10 or 15 minutes usually, and is less trouble than to have a swarm from the limb of a tree.

I have been told that black bees gave but little profit last season. It is therefore a matter of interest, which can be expressed in dollars and cents, to know what the yellow bees did, but as I know of no Italians or Cyprians except my own, in this country, I can only tell you of them.

Last May I found that the last remnant of my bees had dwindled away. As they had got safely through the previous winter without protec-

tion, I supposed they would again, and, like many others, did not expect such a winter. It was a loss of their full value, notwithstanding the fact they had paid for themselves several times, as I had sold bees enough to pay the first cost, and then increased from 18 to 60 colonies, besides taking 1,500 pounds of honey.

To begin with again, I sent South for bees, 20 pounds, enough for three pretty good colonies. I bought three queens at that time, and three later. I increased them to 39 colonies, and extracted 300 pounds of honey. They are now put up for winter with from 25 to 50 pounds of honey per colony. Having the combs already, enabled them to do more than they otherwise could, though the use of comb foundation would have been nearly as good.

A swarm of black bees flying over in June, I brought down by ringing a bell—hived them, and gave them combs. They filled up their hive—nothing more, except, that in September I took one frame of brood and 15 pounds of honey; I did not Italianize them, for I wanted to contrast them with yellow bees which were divided five or six times, and then some of those divided again.

For the American Bee Journal.

Proposed Labels for Honey.

HENRY A. COOK.

I have noted the muddle over names of honey. How are the following for one man's solution of the difficulty?

PURE COMB HONEY,

[WARRANTED.]

Just as Gathered by the Honey-Bees.

FROM THE APIARY OF

M. C. GODFREY, Chicago, Ills.

PURE HONEY,

[WARRANTED.]

Taken from the Comb by Machinery.

FROM THE APIARY OF

M. C. GODFREY, Chicago, Ills.

I know it is simple, but it "tells the truth," and avoids ambiguous terms. "Pure honey" is all honey; "pure comb honey" is both honey and comb. Eureka Springs, Ark.

[For a name we prefer "honey," or "honey in the comb," without using the word "pure"—because that implies that there is an impure or made article, which, so far as the latter is concerned, is erroneous.—Ed.]

For the American Bee Journal.

The Honey Crop of Vermont.

S. B. RYDER.

I hear it reported that there will not be a large crop of honey in Vermont this year. I send some individual reports which have reached me. They are as follows:

V. V. Blackmer, of Orwell, says that he will not get as much honey as last year. He has over 100 colonies, but a number are weak.

S. L. Peck, of Ira, expects 500 pounds of comb honey; he has 23 colonies, but only a part of them are in condition to yield a surplus. His bees are doing fairly well.

Alexander Fraser, of Hinesburgh, has 103 colonies, and about 3,000 pounds of surplus honey.

I. N. Howard, of Low Hampton, N. Y., recently took 2,400 pounds of comb honey, and 500 pounds of extracted, from 50 colonies.

E. L. Westcott, of Fair Haven, was recently offered 14 cents a pound for his honey, which consists of 3,000 pounds of comb and several hundred weight of extracted.

It is reported that G. G. Taylor, of Fairfield, commenced a few years ago with 2 colonies of bees, now has 123 colonies, and makes more money from his bees than any owner of a dairy in town.

In regard to plants for honey: I have seen more domestic bees on burdock blossoms than on any other plant I have observed. Still, I would not recommend the growing of burdocks, as they are well-rooted, noisome pests, unless one can make a contract with a certain medicine company for the material from which to manufacture "burdock blood bitters."

I wish that bee-keepers would put their observation and experience together, and in the course of time compile a table giving the relative value of plants for honey, as accurately as can be ascertained. I have never heard of such a table, and the various scattering reports seem to differ widely on this point.

Brandon, Vt.

Convention Notices.

The Iowa Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in the bee-keepers' tent on the State Fair Grounds at Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 7, 1887, at 10 a.m., and continue as long as may seem profitable. All are invited. A. J. NORRIS, Sec.

The Cedar Valley Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Waterloo, Iowa, on Sept. 6 and 7, 1887. The Cedar Valley Bee-Keepers' Produce and Supply Union will meet with the above Association. This meeting will be made both pleasant and profitable to bee-keepers. All interested in apiculture are cordially invited to attend. Do not be discouraged with this year's crop, but come and have a good time. H. E. HUBBARD, Sec.

Union Convention at Chicago.—The North American Bee-Keepers' Society and the Northwestern Bee-Keepers' Society will meet in joint convention in Chicago, Ills., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 16, 17 and 18, 1887. This date will occur during the second week of the Fat Stock Show, when excursion rates will be very low.

Local Convention Directory.

1887. Time and place of Meeting.

Sept. 6, 7.—Cedar Valley, at Waterloo, Iowa.
H. E. Hubbard, Sec., La Porte City, Iowa.

Sept. 7.—Iowa State, at Des Moines, Iowa.
A. J. Norris, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Nov. 16-18.—North American, at Chicago, Ills.
W. Z. Hutchinson, Sec., Rogersville, Mich.

Dec. 7-9.—Michigan State, at East Saginaw, Mich.
H. D. Cutting, Sec., Clinton, Mich.

In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of time and place of future meetings.—Ed.

SELECTIONS FROM
OUR LETTER BOX

Best Rain of the Season.—I. M. Foote, Creston, ♀ Iowa, on Aug. 17, 1887, writes:

Bees have done but little here on account of the drouth. I am in hopes that there will be enough to make a little show at our Fair, commencing on Monday, Aug. 29. We had the best rain of the season yesterday; about 2 inches of water on the level.

White Clover and Buckwheat Blooming.—W. K. Bates, Stockton, ♀ Minn., on Aug. 17, 1887, writes:

Bees are doing the best they have for years. The late rains have broken the drouth, and white clover is as white as a sheet. Buckwheat is the same, but bees are not on it much. They seem to go to the Mississippi river bottoms in preference, and the wild flowers, which seem to be loaded with nectar. I have several colonies that are in the third section-case.

Bees Wintered Well.—John Davis, (30), Allison, ♀ Ills., on Aug. 1, 1887, says:

My bees wintered without any loss last winter. I have had 4 swarms and 60 pounds of honey.

Defending Extracted Honey.—J. W. Bayard, Athens, ♀ O., writes:

Being one of a large fraternity of bee-keepers, in this land that "flows with milk and honey," I feel constrained to enter my emphatic protest against the proposed change of name of what is now called "extracted honey," to some new name that will cause disturbance all along the line, without bringing anything in return but confusion, and a fresh harvest of explanations to all comers, both old and new, with a laudable suspicion on their part that the new "shuffle" is to cover up some fresh scheme of roguery that the old name failed to accommodate. We have once been through the "mill of the inquisition," and answered all questions to the satisfaction of consumers, and I know of no other parties that we have any

reason to consult or accommodate. I have seen no evidence that the name is a misnomer, or at any time been the subject of criticism; on the contrary it has for nearly a dozen years been thoroughly incorporated into all our bee-literature, as well as all our commercial transactions, and become a living thing, I trust, to stay forever! The name was a necessity in the beginning, and was well chosen, and I know of no authority competent to change it. I have no objections to any one who is fond of light work, to change the name to suit themselves, but I believe the business world will stand by the name of "extracted honey."

Honey is very Thick.—T. F. Bingham, Abonia, ♀ Mich., on Aug. 12, 1887, writes:

I breathe easier; we have had rain. We have a little honey, yet this has been the nearest to a failure of any season since I have been in the bee-business. I have about 2,000 pounds of honey in one-pound sections. I have not extracted any yet, and probably shall not until the bees are being prepared for winter. The honey is the thickest I ever saw.

Another Plea for "Extracted."—H. L. Rouse, Ionia, ♀ Iowa, on Aug. 13, 1887, writes:

I wish to put in another plea for "extracted." I think that "extracted" is the proper name, and I am in favor of sticking to it. Extracted honey is a name familiar in nearly every household in this part of the country. I believe it would be unwise to change it to some new name. I hope that all in favor of extracted, will speak up. What would people think if I should go to the Fair with my extractor, and tell the people that this is a "nectar extractor," or this is a machine for procuring "combless honey," "clear honey," or "pure honey?" No, I would rather call it a honey extractor. I have not had a pound of surplus honey this year. My bees have not enough to winter on yet.

Thrashed Honey, etc.—Mr. W. O. Koher, Cromwell, ♀ Ind., on Aug. 14, 1887, writes:

I would propose to call honey out of the comb "thrashed honey;" for it certainly has a direct meaning to honey out of the comb. Wheat is wheat, whether it be thrashed or not; honey is honey whether it be in or out of the comb; so I would suggest "thrashed honey" for short. Bees in this locality are not doing much, on account of excessive dry weather.

[Thrashed, according to Webster, means "to beat out or off," hence it is used to describe the beating out or thrashing of wheat, rye or oats. It is not applicable to honey, in any sense, shape or manner.

The object of taking the honey out of the comb, is to preserve the comb for further use—to thrash it would destroy the comb, and thus defeat the object of trying to separate the honey and comb.

Then, it would also become necessary to strain the conglomerated mass through a cloth to get the honey out of it; the comb would be destroyed, the work doubled, and we should retrograde to the methods of the "dark ages of the past." Oh! no! the adoption of such an inappropriate word is preposterous, and the thought not to be entertained for a moment.—Ed.]

Loose Honey.—Julius Hoffman, Canajoharie, ♀ N. Y., on Aug. 15, 1887, says:

As I am to a considerable extent engaged in producing and selling what has been so far called "extracted honey," I take great interest in discussing the matter of giving this kind of honey as practicable and comprehensive a name as can be found. I suggest that it be called "loose honey." As a motive to this suggestion, I will state that quite frequently customers call for "loose honey" when they wish to get honey in pails, jars or barrels. The word, it seems to me, is short, comprehensive, and practical. I also think it would not sound badly as a commercial term to say "honey in the comb," and "honey loose."

[Oh! no! It has such "loose" meanings, is so "unconnected and rambling" that it will never do as a name for honey. It is entirely "too loose."—Ed.]

Ex and Ex-Comb Honey.—Jacob Buch, Mt. Eaton, ♀ O., says:

If we must have a new name for extracted honey, I would suggest the name of "ex" or "ex-comb honey."

[It would be no improvement, to say the least. We much prefer "extracted honey" to ex-comb honey. Its excellence is not apparent.—Ed.]

No Reason to Complain.—Ira Barber, De Kalb Junction, ♀ N. Y., on Aug. 10, 1887, writes:

The honey season is over in northern New York, and but a small amount of honey is the result. I reduced my stock of bees in the spring to 117 colonies, and secured a little short of 5,000 pounds of comb honey in one-pound sections, and 1,000 pounds of extracted honey, and have no reason to complain. Many bee-yards here where the same number of colonies, and in some cases where more were kept than I had, did not get one-fourth the amount of honey that I did. One great cause of a short

honey crop was that the bees were in poor condition in the early part of the season. When basswood came on, the weather was so hot and dry that there was but little honey secreted in the blossoms, and that early in the morning and late in the afternoon. There was but three days that the bees kept at work all day while basswood was in bloom. Swarming was rather light in nearly all the apiaries. The quality of the honey is as good as I ever saw, and the bees have an abundance to winter on, of fine clover and basswood honey.

Little Surplus and Few Swarms.—

Francis M. Holt, Palatine, 3 W. Va., on Aug. 16, 1887, says:

Bees have done nothing in this part of the State. We have had but few swarms, the most of them coming late. There will be little or no surplus at all, this being the poorest season we have had for several years. Bee-keepers are very much discouraged.

Old Name Good Enough.—Geo. E.

Hilton, Fremont, Mich., on Aug. 17, 1887, says:

I have watched with interest for the coming name for extracted honey, and as yet I fail to see any improvement suggested. Now, I am neither a scholar nor a grammarian, but so far as I understand I fail to see wherein the word "extracted" is a misnomer. The best authority I have at hand says the meaning of the word is, "To draw out, to remove forcibly," and that is just what we do when we secure extracted honey. I have labored hard and earnestly for ten years, to instruct the consumers of my honey what extracted honey is, and I very seldom get an order for strained, squeezed or rendered honey now, and I for one do not want the name changed. But suppose honey, or combless honey is adopted, what are you going to call the "extractor?" I suppose it will be "the honey machine," or "combless honey machine." I think the old way is good enough.

In Favor of "Extracted."—A. Durward, San Marcos, Tex., says:

I must put in a word for the name "extracted." After doing all we could for years to crowd out the name "strained," and substitute that of "extracted," we would simply make ourselves ridiculous by now trying to change again.

Honey Season in Minnesota, etc.—

C. Theilmann, Theilmanton, Minn., on Aug. 13, 1887, writes:

This has been a dry, hot summer, and the bees did not gather any honey from white clover, except what they needed for themselves from day to day, but they did nicely on basswood, from which I got over 2,500 pounds of comb honey. They have not stored much since, as the dry weather held

on until 3 or 4 days ago, when we had some good showers. Last night a heavy rain set in, and has continued all day to-day, and is still at it now—6 p.m. The ground is well soaked now, and it will help the bees yet, if we have good weather for them hereafter; also corn and potatoes, which were suffering for want of rain. The wheat crop here is almost an entire failure on account of the multitudes of chinch-bugs. Oats are good; corn promises good where the bugs did not destroy it; some fields are nearly ripe. I never expect to call for aid from the Bee-Keepers' Union, but it pleases me that the General Manager has managed all the difficulties so well, and come out ahead on them all so far. I hope that he will be successful hereafter.

Poorest Season in 10 Years.—Alex.

W. Stith, Portland, Ky., on Aug 11, 1887, writes:

I have kept bees in northeastern Kentucky for the past ten years, and the season of 1887 has been the poorest that I have ever experienced. From 60 colonies in fair condition in the spring, I have taken 70 pounds—just to please the children. Although my bees for the past few days have been gathering some surplus in the morning (probably from buck-bush), yet there is hardly a blossom to be seen, as we have not had sufficient rain for nine weeks, to lay the dust, and everything is burned up. Stock is nearly ready to starve on our blue grass pastures, and bone-wagons have made there appearance. The mercury has for the past six weeks been dancing around between 90° and 106°, and I am fearful that many colonies of bees in Kentucky will not have sufficient stores to winter on.

Fuel for Bee-Smokers.—J. L. Harris, of Chicago, Ill., says:

One of the very best, if not the best material for smokers, is old cedar bark. It can be procured now nearly everywhere from railroad ties or fence-posts. It lights readily, gives but little heat or ashes, and never goes out, even if placed where there is no draught; it imparts no unpleasant odor to the honey. Be sure and lay in a good supply when you are where you can get it.

Extracted Honey, Catnip, etc.—

Frank M. Baldwin, Marion, Ind., on Aug. 15, 1887, writes:

The season seems to have been a little better with us than in many other parts of the country, though we will have less than half a crop of honey. There was plenty of bloom, white clover, Alsike, and linden, but the nights were too cold in June for the secretion of nectar. The bees gathered some surplus in July, from red clover (probably 30 pounds per colony), which, added to what we got from the June blossoms, will give us about 50 pounds of extracted honey per colony. It seems to me that it is

a waste of time and effort to try to find a better word than "extracted." It has been in use too long to be easily superseded by any new term, especially as any new one is open to more objection than the old. No name can be found that will not be misunderstood, or that will not call for unlimited explanation from honey producers. Catnip is a good honey-plant with us. There was nectar in it all through the drouth—enough to keep the brood-chamber full of brood, though the plants are not numerous enough to give us anything in the upper stories of the hives. I shall gather the seed and scatter it in all waste places. Ordinarily the hybrids are our best workers; this year the Italians are far ahead.

Honey and Beeswax Market.

The following are our very latest quotations for honey and beeswax:

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—We quote: In 1-lb. sections, 15¢@16¢. The color makes the difference in price.
BEESWAX.—22¢@24¢. R. A. BURNETT, 161 South Water St. Aug. 12.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—We quote new crop: Choice white 2-lb. sections, 14¢@15¢; dark 2-lbs., 11¢@12¢; choice white 1-lb., 18¢; dark 1-lb., 12¢@15¢. Calif. white 2-lbs., 15¢; extra C 2-lbs., 13¢@14¢; C 2-lbs., 11¢@12¢. Extracted, new crop, choice white, 8¢@10¢; dark, 5¢@7¢; Calif. white, 8¢; amber, 6¢@7¢. Prices firm. Very little honey is being received.
BEESWAX.—20¢ to 22¢.
Aug. 16. HAMLIN & BEARSS, 514 Walnut St.

CLEVELAND.

HONEY.—Choice new white 1-lb. sections sell as fast as they arrive, at 16¢; 2-lbs., 14¢ to 15¢; second grade, 13¢@14¢. Extracted, 4¢@6¢. Demand good.
BEESWAX.—25¢.
Aug. 9. A. C. KENDEL, 115 Ontario St.

DETROIT.

HONEY.—New comb is very scarce, and quoted at 17¢@18¢ per lb.
BEESWAX.—25¢.
Aug. 17. M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Mich.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—We quote: Extracted, white liquid, 5¢@5½¢; amber colored and candied, 4¢@4½¢. White to extra white comb, 12¢@14¢; amber, 9¢@11¢. Receipts light.
BEESWAX.—17¢@20¢.
Aug. 13. SCHACHT & LEMCKE, 122-124 Davis St.

ST. LOUIS.

HONEY.—Choice comb, 10¢@12¢; latter price for choice white clover in good condition. Strained, in barrels, 4¢@4½¢. Extra fancy, of bright color and in No. 1 packages, 4-cent advance on above. Extracted, in bbls., 4¢@5¢; in cans, 5¢ to 6¢. Market very firm at above prices.
BEESWAX.—21¢ for prime.
Aug. 2. D. G. TUTT & CO., Commercial St.

SAN FRANCISCO.

HONEY.—We quote: White comb, 12¢@13¢; extra white comb, 14¢ to 15¢; dark, 7¢ to 10¢. White extracted, 5¢@5½¢; light amber, 4¢@5¢; amber and candied, 4¢@4½¢. Receipts light; poor crop.
BEESWAX.—21¢@22¢.
July 25. O. B. SMITH & CO., 423 Front St.

MILWAUKEE.

HONEY.—Choice new 1-lb., 14¢@15¢; old 1-lb., 12¢@12½¢; 2-lbs. not in demand, 10¢@11¢. White extracted in kegs and barrels, 7¢@7½¢; in small tin cans, 7¢@8¢; dark in kegs and barrels, 6¢@6½¢; in small tin cans, 6¢. Market ready for new crop.
BEESWAX.—25¢.
July 21. A. V. BISHOP, 142 W. Water St.

CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—We quote for extracted, 3¢@7¢ per lb. Comb honey has been sold out perhaps better than ever before at this time, only remnants of dark honey being left. Choice white would readily bring 15¢ in a jobbing way.
BEESWAX.—Fair demand, 20¢@22¢ per lb. for good to choice yellow.
Aug. 10. C. F. MUTH & SON, Freeman & Central Av.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—We quote: Best new white, in 1-lb sections, 10¢@12¢; best white 2-lbs., 14¢@16¢. Extracted, 6¢@8¢.
BEESWAX.—25 cts. per lb.
Aug. 18. BLAKE & RIPLEY, 57 Chatham Street.



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 At One Dollar a Year.

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 BUSINESS MANAGER.

Special Notices.

To Correspondents.—It would save us much trouble, if all would be particular to give their P. O. address and name, when writing to this office. We have several letters (some inclosing money) that have no name; many others having no Post-Office, County or State. Also, if you live near one post-office and get your mail at another, be sure to give the address we have on our list.

As there is Another firm in Chicago by the name of "Newman & Son," we wish our correspondents would write "American Bee Journal" on the envelope when writing to this office. Several letters of ours have already gone to the other firm (a commission house), causing vexatious delay and trouble.

We will Present Webster's Dictionary (pocket edition), and send it by mail, postpaid, for two subscribers with \$2. It is always useful to have a dictionary at hand to decide as to the spelling of words, and to determine their meaning.

Money Orders can now be obtained at the Post Offices at reduced rates. Five dollars and under costs now only 5 cents. As these are absolutely safe, it will pay to get them instead of the Postal Notes which are payable to any one who presents them, and are in no way safe.

Red Labels for one-pound pails of honey, size 3x4½ inches.—We have now gotten up a lot of these Labels, and can supply them at the following prices: 100 for \$1.00; 250 for \$1.50; 500 for \$2.00; 1,000 for \$3.00; all with name and address of apiarist printed on them—by mail, postpaid.

E. Duncan Sniffen, Advertising Agent, 3 Park Row, New York, inserts advertisements in all first-class Newspapers and Magazines with more promptness and at lower prices than can be obtained elsewhere. He gives special attention to writing and setting up advertisements in the most attractive manner, and guarantees entire satisfaction. In all his dealings, he is honorable and prompt. Send for his Catalogue of first-class advertising mediums. Mailed free. 52A40t

Conventions.—The time for holding Bee-Keepers' Conventions will soon be here, and we cannot give any better advice than this: Let each one attend who can do so, and take part in making these meetings interesting and instructive. If you have not already obtained the "Bee-Keepers' Convention Hand-Book," do so at once to post yourself up on how to conduct such meetings correctly. It contains a simple Manual of Parliamentary Law and Rules of Order for the guidance of officers and members of Local Conventions—Model Constitution and By-Laws for a Local Society—Programme for a Convention, with Subjects for Discussion—List of Premiums for Fairs, etc. Bound in cloth, and suitable for the pocket. Price, 50 cents. We will club this book and the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for one year for \$1.30.

Sweet Clover, (*Melilotus alba*), furnishes the most reliable crop of honey from July until frost, and at the same time it furnishes the most delicious honey, light in color, and thick in body. It may be sown in waste places, fence corners, or on the roadside. Sow two years running, on the same land, and the honey crop will be without intermission. Money invested in Sweet Clover Seed will prove a good investment. The Seed may be obtained at this office at the following prices: \$6.00 per bushel (60 lbs.); \$1.75 per peck, or 20 cents per pound.

Enameled Cloth for covering frames, price per yard, 45 inches wide, 20 cents; if a whole piece of 12 yards is taken, \$2.25; 10 pieces, \$20.00; if ordered by mail, send 15 cents per yard extra for postage.

Should any Subscriber receive this paper any longer than it is desired, or is willing to pay for it, please send us a postal card asking to have it stopped. Be sure to write your name and address plainly. LOOK AT YOUR WRAPPER LABEL.

Sample Copies of the BEE JOURNAL will be sent FREE upon application. Any one intending to get up a club can have sample copies sent to the persons they desire to interview, by sending the names to this office, or we will send them all to the agent.

Colored Posters for putting up over honey exhibits at Fairs are quite attractive, as well as useful. We have prepared some for the BEE JOURNAL, and will send two or more free of cost to any one who will use them, and try to get up a club.

We Supply Chapman Honey-Plant seed at the following prices: One-half ounce, 50 cents; 1 ounce, \$1; 2 ounces, \$1.50; 4 ounces, \$2; ½ pound, \$3; 1 pound, \$5. One pound of seed is sufficient for half an acre, if properly thinned out and re-set.

Our New Book List on the second page is the place from which to select the book you want. We have a large stock of every book there named, and can fill all orders on the day they are received.

Back Numbers of the BEE JOURNAL for this year are getting scarce. If any of our new subscribers want them, they should order them soon, or we may not be able to supply them. Last fall we had to refuse many applications for them, as they were all gone in September. Say so at once, if you want them.

Yucca Brushes are employed for removing bees from the combs. They are a soft, vegetable fiber, and do not irritate the bees. We can supply them at 5 cents each, or 50 cents a dozen; if sent by mail, add 1 cent each for postage.

We have a large quantity of CHOICE WHITE EXTRACTED HONEY, in kegs holding from 200 lbs. to 225 lbs. each, which we will deliver on board the cars at 10 cents per lb. Orders solicited.

Queens.—We can mail a Tested Italian Queen (bred for the best results as well as for beauty) for \$2.00; Untested Queens, \$1 each, or \$9.00 per dozen. Orders solicited.

We pay 20 cents per pound, delivered here, for good Yellow Beeswax. To avoid mistakes, the shipper's name should always be on each package.

Advertisements.

TODD'S HONEY-CANDIES sell well at Fairs—average wholesale price 16c per lb.; retail, 30 cts. Mail samples, 25 cts. HONEY and BEESWAX wanted on Commission, by—ARTHUR TODD, 2122 North Front St., Philadelphia, Pa. 91A13t

HOW TO WINTER BEES,

ELEVEN Essays by eleven prominent beekeepers, sent by mail for 10 cents. Address, HENRY ALLEY, Wenham, Mass. 11A1t

Dadant's Foundation Factory, wholesale and retail. See advertisement in another column.

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